

From: Lisa Donadio  
To: Commissioner Adelstein, Kathleen Abernathy, KM KJMWEB, Mike Powell  
Date: Tue. Apr 15, 2003 11:47 AM  
Subject: Please halt the June 2 vote on media ownership rules

Dear Commissioners,

I attended a town meeting last night organized by Vermont Congressman Bernie Sanders, and featuring FCC Commissioner Copps. The topic was media ownership, and I was appalled to discover the extent to which consolidation has created, and continues to create, a monopoly in the field of media which threatens local ownership of television, newsprint and radio. More disturbing than that, however, was the revelation that further deregulation was imminent in an upcoming vote at the FCC.

The fact that this issue is one that the majority of people I know (including those who watch or read the news) know NOTHING about is extremely telling. Why is such an important national issue not newsworthy?? I am VERY concerned about the future flow of information in this country.

I was very fortunate to hear about the town meeting that took place last evening; I am employed by a law school, and conscientious students made the community aware of its existence. I DID NOT hear about the meeting on the news, nor have I seen news programs discussing the issue. I feel it is your responsibility at the FCC to take the issue of deregulation to the press so that it reaches a broader audience. I will certainly do my part by spreading word via the internet.

Certainly, you should not hold a vote until a larger percentage of the public has a chance to weigh in on such an important issue.

Thank you for your time,  
Lisa Donadio  
Randolph, Vermont

Please take immediate action to stop the upcoming vote in the FCC. Although there are countless issues I feel need to be emergently addressed, I honestly feel that this issue, which will affect how the public receives information, is by far the most critical. If the public is unaware of serious issues in the future due to corporate control of the media, the democratic process will fail. No one will know about dangers to the environment, or the state of education, or the increasing numbers of people who fall below the poverty level. How will any of them be addressed?

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**From:** WWEAVER@cwa-union.org  
**To:** KathleenAbernathy  
**Date:** Tue, Apr 15, 2003 11:55 AM  
**Subject:** Preserve Media Diversity: Keep the FCC Rulemaking an Open Process

FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Dear FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy,

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is currently considering sweeping changes to broadcast ownership rules. Repeal or significant modification of these rules would likely open the door to numerous mergers that could reduce competition and diversity in the media.

Before the media ownership rules are issued in final form, the public must have the opportunity to review and comment on any specific changes the Commission plans to make.

If media ownership rules are seriously weakened, one company in a town could control the most popular newspaper, TV station, and possibly even a cable system giving it dominant influence over the content and slant of local news. Such a move would reduce the diversity of cultural and political discussion in a community. It could also raise costs for businesses and candidates that use local media for advertising.

While the Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on media ownership, it proposed no actual rule. Accordingly, no public comment has been received on any specific changes. We believe that additional input from the public will help the Commission see the strengths and weaknesses of any new approach.

I encourage you to provide a detailed description of all proposed changes, their empirical basis, and a meaningful period of time for the public to review and comment on any proposed changes before a final rule is issued.

The stakes for citizens and the nation are enormous. More information, not **less**, about proposed changes would best serve **the** public interest. indeed, we hope the Commission would do everything in its power to keep the rulemaking process as open and inclusive as possible.

Sincerely,

WALLACE WEAVER  
241 SUMMIT AVENUE  
SUITE 100  
GREENSBORO, North Carolina 27401

From: WWEAVER@cwa-union.org  
To: Mike Powell  
Date: Tue, Apr 15.2003 11:55 AM  
Subject: Preserve Media Diversity: Keep the FCC Rulemaking an Open Process

FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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241 SUMMIT AVENUE  
SUITE 100  
GREENSBORO, North Carolina 27401

From: Marilyn G. W.  
To: Commissioner Adelstein  
Date: Tue, Apr 15, 2003 12:30 PM  
**Subject:** Don't weaken limitations on media ownership

Dear Commissioner

It is incumbent that the current limitations on ownership of media remain. If there is any change, it should be toward DECREASING THE NUMBER OF MEDIA OUTLETS one individual or corporation may own. Our access to information is at stake. We need the small, independent local outlets!

Sincerely,  
Marilyn G. Wolters  
16404 Melody Lane  
Guerneville, CA 95446

From: Deanna Sclar  
To: Kathleen Abernathy  
Date: Tue. Apr 15, 2003 1:13 PM  
Subject: Control of Media undermines Basic Freedoms!

Dear Commissioner:

Regarding the upcoming FCC vote, further consolidation of the media in the false name of "deregulation" must be halted and in fact reversed. TV and radio news in the hands of a handful of profit-driven corporations has undermined our democracy more than any other modern force except the high cost of broadcast commercials during elections. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide crucial unbiased information to the public about most public issues, most notably the drive to war in Iraq. As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to break up the media conglomerates, to open the spectrum to a wide diversity of organizations and independent journalists, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine.

Thank you,  
Deanna Sclar

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**From:** scoobydoo2@ameritech.net  
**To:** Kathleen Abernathy  
**Date:** Tue, Apr 15, 2003 1:14 PM  
**Subject:** Preserve Media Diversity: Keep the FCC Rulemaking an Open Process

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Sincerely,

Stephen Barteck  
629 W. Front St.  
Monroe, Michigan 48161

From: scoobydoo2@ameritech.net  
To: Mike Powell  
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Thank you,

Deanna Sclar

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**From:** Kimberly Peterson  
**To:** Kathleen Abernathy  
**Date:** Tue, Apr 15, 2003 2:54 PM  
**Subject:** breakup what makes news bad

Please halt media conglomeration and breakup the media giants that are abetting this war, and affecting the dignity and professionalism of journalism everywhere

Kimberly

**From:** Kimberly Peterson  
**To:** Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Tue, Apr 15, 2003 2:55 PM  
**Subject:** break up what makes news wrong

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Kimberly

From: Kimberly Peterson  
To: Kathleen Abernathy  
Date: Tue, Apr 15, 2003 2:56 PM  
Subject: break up what makes news wrong

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**To:** Kathleen Abernathy  
**Date:** Tue, Apr 15, 2003 2:56 PM  
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From: Kimberly Peterson  
To: Commissioner Adelstein  
Date: Tue. Apr 15, 2003 2:57 PM  
Subject: break up what eats up democracy

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Kimberly

**From:** Carol Dain  
**To:** Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Tue, Apr 15, 2003 3:00 PM  
**Subject:** diversity in media

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you today to comment on The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules, Docket No. **02-277**. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited. The current invasion of Iraq is a perfect example of these limited views. It saddens me to **see** report after report, all reflecting the same viewpoint, regardless of the network or channel. Unlike reporting in other parts of the world, there has been very little balance in the views presented in America over this controversial issue. This has clearly influenced many Americans, who strongly support the president on this issue without having all the facts. There is too much control over what is being reported and what is not. I would call this censorship and propaganda except for the fact that it is voluntary on the part of these huge broadcast companies, whose political alliances are clear and very biased. The affects of such reporting over time could be, and may already be detrimental to democracy in America.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised to an even greater extent than it already is.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA. I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Respectfully,

Carol Dain  
Oak Creek, WI

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**From:** loudsue@aol.com  
**To:** KathleenAbernathy  
**Date:** Tue, Apr 15, 2003 3:40 PM  
**Subject:** Preserve Media Diversity: Keep the FCC Rulemaking an Open Process

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Sincerely,

Nan Lyons  
P.O. Box 3236  
Henderson, North Carolina 27536



From: loudsue@aol.com  
To: Mike Powell  
Date: Tue, Apr 15, 2003 3:41 PM  
Subject: Preserve Media Diversity: Keep the FCC Rulemaking an Open Process

FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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